Claims

1. A protein specifically expressed in differentiated chondrocytes, comprising an ezrin-like domain, a Dbl domain, and a pleckstrin domain.

2. A protein having an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 in the sequence listing.

3. A protein comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 in the sequence listing in which one to several amino acids have been deleted, substituted or added, the protein being specifically expressed in differentiated chondrocytes, and the protein being such that

(1) the amino acid sequence of a portion of the protein corresponding to an amino acid sequence ranging from the 1st to 374th amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 2 in the sequence listing has homology of 85% or more to the amino acid sequence ranging from the 1st to 374th amino acids in the SEQ ID NO: 2,

(2) the amino acid sequence of a portion of the protein corresponding to an amino acid sequence ranging from the 544th to 737th amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 2 in the sequence listing has homology of 85% or more to the amino acid sequence ranging from the 544th to 737th amino acids in the SEQ ID NO: 2, and

(3) the amino acid sequence of a portion of the protein

corresponding to an amino acid sequence ranging from the 764th to 854th amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 2 in the sequence listing has homology of 85% or more to the amino acid sequence ranging from the 764th to 854th amino acids in the SEQ ID NO: 2.

4. DNA encoding the protein according to any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. A gene comprising DNA shown in the following (a) or (b):

(a) DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence ranging from the 49th to 3,183rd bases in a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing; and

(b) DNA which is hybridized under stringent conditions with DNA having a nucleotide sequence ranging from the 49th to 3,183rd bases in a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing, and which encodes a protein specifically expressed in differentiated chondrocytes.

6. DNA having a part of or all of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing, or having a nucleotide sequence complementary to the part of or all of the nucleotide sequence.

7. An antibody against the protein according to any one of claims 1 to 3.

8. A kit for screening a regulator of cell differentiation induction, the kit comprising at least one

of the following (a) to (c) as an active ingredient:

(a) the protein according to any one of claims 1 to 3;

(b) the DNA according to any one of claims 4 to 6; and

(c) the antibody according to claim 7.

9. A methods for screening a regulator of cell differentiation induction, the method comprising using the kit according to claim 8.

10. The method for screening claimed in claim 9, wherein the regulator of cell differentiation induction is an anti-tumor agent.

add A1 & B3

Add C6